CALIFORNIA *PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM* SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
September 1-2, 2004

Purpose: Provide recommendations to science-based questions that will allow the California Department of Food and Agriculture to best engage in regulatory discussions with cooperating agencies, the regulated industry and other interested agencies. Below are some general areas of discussion that the department would like the panel to consider. The panel, and individual members, are welcome to add other issues.

1. Based on the research to date, what is the known pest risk of *P. ramorum* and sudden oak death?

2. Can you characterize the risk of moving the disease from one location to another via the movement of nursery stock? Do different host species or cultivars present different risks?

3. What information does the scientific literature provide regarding disease transmission? What conditions are necessary for disease transmission to occur?

4. Is there information showing that potting soil or water will transmit the disease under natural conditions?

5. What criteria should be used to determine the host status of a particular plant species or cultivar? For example, currently there are 66 plants listed as hosts for *P. ramorum*, two of which include the entire genus, 38 of which are categorized as associated hosts. In some cases it may be that *P. ramorum* was found only one time, on one plant or even only one leaf. In the case of at least one listed host, *Arctostaphylos*, the pathogen has never been isolated from a natural infection; potted plants in a greenhouse were challenged with the oak isolate. (See data sheets provided in packet.)

6. Has any work been done, is there any information in the literature, that indicates that the host list for the A1 and the A2 strains are the same?

7. The question regarding masking of symptoms by fungicides has been raised again, by a nurseryman. Is there evidence that fungicide applications will prevent the development of symptoms, but allow survival of the pathogen in a host plant? What is the likelihood that the plant will then successfully later express and/or transmit the disease once moved to a new location?

8. What is the best, most reliable testing method for determining the presence or absence of the sudden oak death disease (e.g. culture, nested PCR etc.)?

9. Is there any specific data on the distance this pathogen could be expected to naturally migrate from plant to plant in a nursery situation, outside of a generally infested area?